

Stakeholder and Public Comments

1. What is the downtown connector deliverable and when will it be available?
 - Three Tiers of specific action recommendations for: This ozone season, next ozone season, and 5 years out. Plan will be done in June.
2. How is movement of freight and intermodal connections being addressed?
 - We will use existing truck counts and Reebie TRANSEARCH database of freight movements to understand the role of trucking on the interstate system and what improvements might be required. We will relate this to major intermodal trip generators.
3. Are we looking at dedicated truck lanes?
 - Yes, if there are high truck volumes and congestion, truck lanes could address congestion and safety.
4. There is no east-west connectivity in North Georgia. North Georgia needs a limited access corridor.
 - The connectivity for major long trip length flows between interstate corridors across the state will be one of the items addressed during the review of future needs.
5. Is there anything that can be done to keep trucks out of communities?
 - We need to accommodate freight movement and need to look at access points to ensure that trucks can get on the interstate with minimal travel through communities.
6. Is there any thought to connect more communities to the interstate?
 - We will look at interstate access in the study.
7. Are we looking at parallel facilities to the interstate?
 - We will look at the whole transportation network as it relates to the interstate.
8. Are we just looking at existing funding or other potential sources?
 - We looked at a broad range of funding sources in the Statewide Transportation Plan (SWTP). We may develop several scenarios to offer choices based on existing or potential funding levels.

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9. I-75 has had several major accidents and traffic gets off on Hwy 41 in Pinehurst – will we address this?
 - We are developing a model with all state routes. GDOT will have a model to use to examine potential effects. Hurricane evacuation will also be addressed.

Written Stakeholder Comments:

- Important functions of Georgia's Interstate System are connectivity and commerce.
- Georgia's Interstate System could be improved by developing alternatives to ease the load and preserve the original purpose. Alternatives for commuters are needed.
- The NaviGator system needs to be available statewide.
- The Interstate System could be improved by providing call boxes for motorists without cell telephones.
- Important issues to be addressed in the Interstate System Plan:
 - Interface and interoperability to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS), GSP, DOT, DMVS, and local law enforcement agencies
 - Emergency evacuation/ alternative routes related to incidents, weather conditions, and homeland security.
- Important functions of the interstate system are movement of freight, tourist travel, and local home-to-work travel
- There is a need for more gas stations on I-16
- The Interstate System Plan should address land use, hydrological areas, and the future need for economic development access to the interstate.
- The system seems to be functioning effectively compared to others within the southeastern region.
- Compared to the I-16 corridor, the I-95 corridor seems to have less interchanges. There needs to be one additional interchange on the retreat road near Riceboro. The swamp between Riceboro and the McIntosh County line needs more access by first Responder Safety units.
- The most important issues to be addressed in the Interstate System Plan are safety and congestion.

For additional information about the study, contact Tom McQueen, GDOT Project Manager at (404) 657-6697 or Thomas.McQueen@dot.state.ga.us or Jeff Carroll, Day Wilburn Associates, at (404) 249-7550 or jcarroll@daywilburn.com.

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- Georgia is a rapidly growing state with regard to expanded population. There is a need to carefully consider connectivity as commerce and the general population expand according to a specific pattern.
- The interstate system performs both the transportation function and the economic development function well.
- More coordinated planning will improve Georgia's interstates. Capacity in large urban areas and surface conditions in and around major cities are two significant deficiencies that currently exist on the Interstate System.
- The Interstate System Plan needs to address connectivity with existing and future four lane State Routes and US Highways, system preservation, user safety and the funding balance between urban and rural areas.